

HOUSE RESOLUTION 197

By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to commend the Mid-South SAFE KIDS Coalition and its participants for their honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to honor those noteworthy organizations and their individual members, who have given unreservedly of their time and talents to ensure the well being of our children; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-South SAFE KIDS Coalition is one such remarkable public service organization, a voice of integrity in the prevention of unintentional injuries to children; and

WHEREAS, each year 6,700 children in this country die from preventable injuries while another 120,000 suffer permanent disabilities; in the Mid-South alone, 20 children die every month due to injury, while at the Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis, there are 12,000 hospital admissions or emergency visits per year due to injury; and

WHEREAS, the cost of injuries to children in the Mid-South now exceeds \$12 billion a year, however the implementation of basic safety measures will greatly lower the risk of serious, and often disabling, injuries; and

WHEREAS, established in 1992 as part of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, the Mid-South Coalition is the first and only nationwide childhood injury prevention effort focused on unintentional injuries to children; and

WHEREAS, numerous organizations and individuals interested in child safety have joined forces under the Mid-South SAFE KIDS Coalition banner; and;

WHEREAS, headquartered at the Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, the Coalition combines community action, public awareness, and public policy initiatives to bring about a systematic, ongoing response to childhood injury in Mid-South communities; and

WHEREAS, in response to the overwhelming numbers of childhood injuries, the Center seeks to prevent childhood injuries through research, education, public service and improved patient care services; and

WHEREAS, Le Bonheur has signed a formal agreement with the National SAFE KIDS Campaign to help build and sustain a broad-based children's injury prevention effort designed to reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal unintentional injuries affecting children in the Mid-South; and

WHEREAS, when an injury occurs, Le Bonheur's patient services are prepared to treat the injured child from pre-hospital care, during transport, through hospitalization to home with outpatient follow-up care; and

WHEREAS, the success of the coalition has been due in large part to the support of citizens and organizations who have contributed their time and experience to ensure the safety and welfare of children in the Mid-South; and

WHEREAS, several action groups have been formed to address various aspects of child safety and to determine prevention strategies; they include: Buckle Up, Cycle Smart, Project Get Alarmed, Safety in the Home, and Communications and Public Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-South SAFE KIDS Coalition offers a unique opportunity to influence and raise awareness of the importance of valuing, recognizing, and respecting child safety; and

WHEREAS, Safe Kids is the perfect example of an organization totally committed to protecting the well-being of our children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor everyone affiliated with the Mid-South SAFE KIDS Coalition for their unprecedented devotion to child safety, and salute them for their commitment to our young people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.